

REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 10 to 15, 17, 19, 21 and 36 to 57, the independent claims being Claims 10, 17, 19, 21, 44, 49 and 54 to 57. Claims 1 to 9, 16, 18, 20 and 22 to 35 previously were cancelled. Claims 10 to 13, 17, 19 and 21 have been amended herein. Claims 36 to 57 are newly presented herein.

In the Official Action dated October 27, 2003, Claims 10, 15, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 10, 13 to 15, 17, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,507,371 (Hashimoto), Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over the Hashimoto '371 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,023,635 (Nealon), and Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over the Hashimoto '371 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,682,458 (Funazaki). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The formal rejection and the rejections of the claims over the cited art respectfully are traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 10 to 13, 17, 19 and 21 have been amended herein more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

Newly presented Claims 36 to 57 have been added to provide Applicant with an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. No new matter has been added.

The present invention relates to a novel image processing method and apparatus. In one aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 10 the apparatus comprises an input device for inputting, from a camera-detachable image recording medium into which a

picture-taking image and location information associated with the picture-taking image are recorded by a camera, the location information as original information; a conversion device converts the original information input by the input device to second location information in a predetermined representation form, and a recording device records the second location information converted by the conversion device into the camera-detachable image recording medium in association with the corresponding picture-taking image.

Newly presented independent Claim 54 recites parallel features with respect to an image processing apparatus.

In another aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 17, the apparatus comprises an input device for inputting, from a detachable image recording medium into which an image is and location information associated with the image are recorded, the location information as original information; a conversion device converts the original information input by the input device to second location information in a predetermined representation form, and a recording device records the second location information converted by the conversion device into the image recording medium in association with the corresponding image.

Newly presented independent Claim 55 recites parallel features with respect to an image processing method.

In another aspect, as recited in newly presented independent Claim 44, the apparatus comprises an input device for inputting, from a camera-detachable image recording medium into which a picture-taking image and location information associated with the picture-taking image are recorded by a camera, the location information as original information; a conversion device converts original information input by the input device to second and third location information in different representation forms, and a recording device records the second and third location information, converted by the conversion device, into the camera-detachable image recording medium in association with the corresponding picture-taking image.

Newly presented independent Claim 56 recites parallel features with respect to an image processing method.

In another aspect, as recited in newly presented independent Claim 49, the apparatus comprises an input device for inputting, from a camera-detachable image recording medium into which a picture-taking image and location information associated with the picture-taking image are recorded by a camera, the location information as original information; a conversion device converts the original information input by the input device to second and third location information in different representation forms; a selection device selects one or a plurality of the second and third location information converted by the conversion device, and a recording device records the selected second and third location information converted by the conversion device into the camera-detachable image recording medium in association with the corresponding picture-taking image.

Newly presented independent Claim 57 recites parallel features with respect to an image processing method.

Those skilled in the art readily will recognize that, although it is important to automate location detection of cameras, it is not realistic for a camera, as a portable device, to convert detected information to high-level information, such as location names, maps, codes, and home page addresses, as described in the prior art, e.g., in the Hashimoto '371 patent. Thus, an important feature of the present invention resides in this point; when taking a picture, the camera records image information and the corresponding original location information in the image recording medium. Depending on how the user may use the location information, which is generally in a text form, such as location name / name of city, the representation form of the location information may differ, such as a coded form in a particular application or system, or a longitude and latitude form in map software. The present invention thus relates to an apparatus/method in which original location information is retrieved from the image recording

device, is converted into a different representation form, allowing for the selection of the representation form most suitable for the user's usage, and is recorded in that form into the image recording medium without breaking off the association of the location information to the corresponding image. Additionally, both converted location information and the original location information can be recorded into the image recording medium. In this manner, the user can carry the location information in the most suitable form association with the image information, and the location information may be input into other devices, such as cameras, photo-finishing apparatuses, personal computers, TV monitors, printers and the like, as required.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The Hashimoto '371 patent relates to a communication apparatus and method that links a network address with designated image information, and discloses a video camera system in which, when an image is recorded, recorded digital image data together with GPS information is recorded when capturing a digital image by a video camera. However, Applicant submits that the Hashimoto '371 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. Nowhere is the Hashimoto '371 patent understood to disclose or suggest the recited features including inputting original location information, converting the original location information to second (and/or third) location information, and then recording both the original location information and the converted second location information in the recording medium, where the recording medium included a picture-taking image and (original) location information associated with the picture-taking image recorded therein, e.g., by a camera, as disclosed and claimed in the present application. With respect to the Hashimoto '371 patent disclosure in Fig. 5B, item 310 and the corresponding written description at column 5, lines 37 to

39, 'data section' in item 310 is part of the 'computer communication apparatus'; that is, it should be part of 'personal computer body' 301 in Fig. 5A. At the same time, 'image recording medium' corresponds to 'a memory card' described in column 5, line 9 or 'silver film' and 'flash memory' in column 4, line 2.

With respect to the Claim 11, and the Examiner's comments regarding 'a method of inputting no data', and the Hashimoto '371 patent disclosure at column 7, line 18, Applicant submits that the Hashimoto '371 patent merely teaches that the apparatus does not need to have a search code to search 'home page'; accordingly, Applicant submits that this teaching is not related to the recording of both the original location information and the converted location information, as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

Th Nealon '635 patent relates to a dual film and still video studio portrait system using parallel dedicated magnetic tracks on film, and was cited for its disclosure at column 7, lines 51 to 55 of optionally storing new data along with existing data. However, Applicant submits that the Nealon '635 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. Rather, Applicant submits that the Nealon '635 patent merely teaches that the 'order entry station' plays back the new or modified instructions it stores, which are transmitted to the photo-finishing system for recording the film. In relation to the present invention, Applicant submits that the Nealon '635 patent does not disclose or suggest that the 'photo-finishing system for recording' is stored in the film along with the original instructions and the new or modified instructions. Thus, Applicant submits that the Nealon '635 patent fails to add anything to the Hashimoto '371 patent that would make obvious the claimed invention.

The Funazaki '458 patent relates to a camera for recording shot data on a magnetic recording area of a film. However, Applicant submits that the Funazaki '458 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. In

particular, Applicant submits that the Funazaki '458 patent neither discloses or suggests recording in a converted representation form into the same recording medium from which original information has been read/input, as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Nor is the Funazaki '458 patent believed to add anything to the Hashimoto '371 patent and/or the Nealon '635 patent that would make obvious the claimed invention.

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 10, 17, 19, 21, 44, 49 and 54 to 57 are allowable over the cited art.

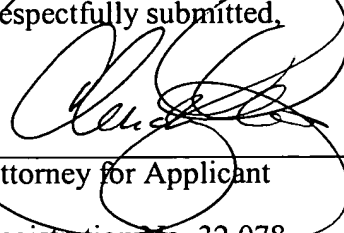
Claims 11 to 15, 36 to 39, 40 to 43, 45 to 48 and 50 to 53 depend from Claims 10, 17, 19, 44 and 49, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

The specification and abstract of the disclosure have been amended herein as to matters of form, including English spelling, grammar, idiom, syntax and the like. A substitute specification, together with a marked-up version of the specification indicating the proposed amendments, is submitted herewith. No new matter has been added.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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